

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant responds herein to the Office Action dated January 17, 2007.

Applicant's attorneys appreciate the Examiner's continued thorough search and examination of the present patent application.

Claims 18, 26, 27, 29 and 32-35 are pending in this application. Claims 18, 26, 27, 29 and 32-35 have been rejected.

Claims 18, 26, 27, 29 and 32-35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

In response, independent claims 18, 29, and 35 were amended to replace the term "flexible plastic" with "plastic" and to clarify that the hook shaped member encounters "resistance with respect to said rod when said hook shaped member is inserted onto and removed from said rod." Support for the term "plastic" is found in paragraph 0015 of the specification. The resistance limitation is supported in the Abstract and paragraphs 0005, 0020, and 0022 of the specification. Reconsideration is requested

Claims 29 and 35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. D395,555 to Ursitti ("Ursitti") in view of U.S. Patent No. 70,884 to Oatley ("Oatley") and U.S. Patent No. 5,046,222 to Byers et al. ("Byers"). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 27 and 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ursitti in view of Oatley and Byers and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 637,733 to Hall ("Hall"). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 18 and 34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ursitti in view of Oatley and Byers further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,083,813 to Adkins ("Adkins"). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 26 and 33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ursitti in view of Oatley, Byers and Adkins as applied to Claim 18 above, and further in view of Hall. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

As was discussed in the previous Amendment, Oatley device is made of “stout wire”, which is a rigid metal and there is no teaching or suggestion in Oatley to make that device of a plastic material as claimed in the amended independent claims.

Adkins is directed to a stand alone clip 10 that snaps to a ski rod and to a lift chair thereby fastening the ski rod to the lift chair. Adkins is a non-analogous art and should not have been used to reject a one piece hook member used for hanging garments. What's more, Adkins does not teach or suggest “said extended hook region surface and said opposing body portion surface are configured such that a distance between said extended hook region surface and said opposing body portion surface is approximately a same size as said diameter of said garment hanging rod” as recited in claim 18. Similarly, claims 29 and 35 now recites “said hook opening decreases towards a point of equal width with a diameter of the rod and thereafter increases.”

To clarify, claim 18 states that the hook opening 27 is approximately the same size as the diameter of the rod 11, which impedes “passage of said rod through said hook opening”. Instead, Adkins, as illustrated in FIGs. 3, 6, 10, and 11 shows the opening 22 that is much smaller than the outer diameter of the rod or lift chair bar 26. Therefore, even in combination with Ursitti, Oatley, and Byers Adkins does not teach the above quoted limitations of claims 18, 29, and 35.

Therefore, Ursitti, Oatley, Byers, Adkins, and their combination do not make independent claims 18, 29, and 35 obvious.

Hall was not used to reject the independent claims.

Claims 26, 27, and 32-34 depend directly or indirectly from the above discussed independent claims and are, therefore, allowable for the same reasons, as well as because of the combination of features in those claims with the features set forth in the respective independent claims.

In view of the above, it is submitted that all claims in this application are now in condition for allowance, prompt notification of which is requested.

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING
SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH
THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE EFS
FILING SYSTEM ON May 23, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Louis C. Dujmich', is written over a horizontal line.

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